

## **SECTION 1 – CHILDREN'S MEDICAL SERVICES BRANCH AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Children's Medical Services Branch Overview**

Website: [www.dhs.ca.gov/cms](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/cms)

The Children's Medical Services (CMS) is a branch of the Primary Care and Family Health Division (PCFH) of the California Department of Health Services (CDHS). The CMS Branch is responsible for the administration of three major statewide programs: the Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) program, which includes the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPFCF); the California Children's Services (CCS), which includes the Medical Therapy Program (MTP); and the Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (GHPP). The CMS Branch is also responsible for implementation, monitoring, and oversight of the Newborn Hearing Screening Program (NHSP) and special grants to serve special needs children such as the Medically Vulnerable Infant Program (MVIP) and the Asthma Treatment Program. The mission of CMS is to assure the health of California's children.

The Branch is organized as follows:

#### **I. Program Information Technology Section**

The Program Information Technology Section is responsible for all aspects of information technology support for the CMS Branch and CMS Net. This includes CMS Branch office products, CMS Net network support, CMS Net operations, CMS Net Help Desk operation, and support in Enhancement 47 development. The Section provides consultation to the State Health and Human Services Agency Data Center regarding county LAN/WAN connectivity. The Section is responsible for corrections and modifications to CMS Net application.

#### **II. Program Case Management Section**

The Program Case Management Section (PCMS) is composed of three units: the Provider Services Unit (PSU); the CCS Sacramento Regional Office (SRO); and the Genetically Handicapped Persons Program.

The PSU enrolls providers for the CCS, CHDP, and GHPP programs and acts as a liaison between the CMS Branch's programs, their providers, the Medi-Cal Payment Systems Division, and the State fiscal intermediary, Electronic Data Systems (EDS). The PSU works with individual providers, hospitals, and CCS and GHPP Special Care Centers in resolving provider reimbursement issues, such as billing and claims processing issues.

The CCS Sacramento Regional Office provides medical, nursing, and therapy case management, as well as ongoing technical assistance, for 21 dependent counties. This includes, but is not limited to, determination of medical eligibility and authorizations for services, resolution of financial appeals, determination of eligibility for Medical Therapy Unit services, and program consultation. Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and

Treatment Supplemental Services (EPSDT-SS) requests statewide are directed to the EPSDT-SS coordinator and staff in SRO for review and approval.

The GHPP provides all medical and administrative case management for GHPP-eligible clients statewide.

### **III. Program Operations Sections**

The Program Operations Section (POS) has oversight responsibility for 58 county CCS and 61 local CHDP programs. The Section's professional staff is responsible for evaluating and monitoring each program for compliance with federal and state regulations and local policies and procedures. Oversight responsibilities include but are not limited to program development; review and approval of annual budgets and workplans; provision of technical assistance and program consultation; and provision of expertise in the disciplines of medicine, nursing, social work, nutrition, dentistry, dental hygiene, health education, physical therapy, and occupational therapy. The Program Operations Section provides oversight and monitoring of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between CCS and CHDP programs and Medi-Cal Managed Care and Healthy Families plans.

POS staff are assigned to the CMS Branch offices in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. POS staff in the San Francisco and Los Angeles offices provide direct medical case management for six dependent CCS counties with populations of less than 200,000.

POS is responsible for ensuring that all providers who deliver services to children are qualified and in good standing with the appropriate board under the Department of Consumer Affairs. The CCS program has a quality assurance process that reviews applications from "panel" providers. CCS also conducts on-site reviews of approved hospitals, Special Care Centers, neonatal and pediatric intensive care units, and medical therapy units.

POS and local programs collaborate in the implementation of new programs such as the HCPCFC and the NHSP. In addition, POS and local programs collaborate to ensure that providers, hospitals, Special Care Centers, other State programs, local agencies, community-based organizations, and the general public are informed and assisted in the process of providing services to eligible populations.

Local CHDP and CCS programs provide input to the CMS Branch through regional associations and an Executive Committee for each program.

### **IV. Program Standards and Quality Assurance Section**

The Program Standards and Quality Assurance (PSQA) Section is responsible for the development and implementation of program policy, regulations and procedures for the CHDP and CCS programs; implementation of the NHSP; development of provider standards for CCS; development of policies and procedures to assist in the implementation of Medi-Cal managed care and the Healthy Families program; provision of pediatric consultation to the Medi-Cal program in the development of policies and procedures for EPSDT program benefits; provision of pediatric consultation to other

CDHS programs; and performance of the review and approval of all requests for organ transplants for children covered by CCS and Medi-Cal.

## **V. Program Support Section**

The Program Support Section is composed of three units that are responsible for development, implementation, evaluation, and support of the following Branch operations: Administration; Clerical Support; and Data Analysis, Research, and Evaluation (DARE).

The Administrative Unit is responsible for fiscal, personnel, contracting, purchasing, and business services functions for the Branch. Staff in the unit review, approve, and monitor CCS county programs and CHDP county/city budgets; resolve county budgeting/invoicing issues; develop and implement administrative and fiscal procedures for new CMS Branch programs; develop and manage contracts and interagency agreements; process contract and county expenditure invoices; and maintain personnel and business services transactions for all CMS Branch staff. This Unit also develops and participates in training programs for State and county program staff relating to the above areas of responsibility.

The Clerical Support Unit provides general clerical services to CMS Branch management and staff. The Unit is responsible for completion of complex typing assignments, formatting of proposals, regulations, program standards, reports, research papers, etc. The Clerical Unit also assists in organizing and filing all program documents; responds to telephone calls, faxes, and e-mails; disseminates program information to State staff, local agencies, the general public, and various other organizations; coordinates meetings; and makes travel arrangements for Branch staff.

The DARE Unit is responsible for statewide data collection and evaluation of CMS Branch program expenditures/activities. The DARE Unit collects, analyzes, interprets, and maintains complex expenditure data for use in preparation of internal CMS management reports; and reports required by the Department of Health Services, Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), State Legislature, State control agencies, and CCS and CHDP local programs. This Unit also analyzes data available to the CMS Branch to identify trends, participates in special data management collection and analysis, and makes recommendations to management.

## California Children's Services Overview

Website: [www.dhs.ca.gov/ccs](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/ccs)

### I. Program Description

The CCS program provides diagnostic and treatment services, medical case management, and physical and occupational therapy services to children under age 21 with CCS-eligible medical conditions. Examples of CCS-eligible conditions include, but are not limited to, chronic medical conditions such as cystic fibrosis, hemophilia, cerebral palsy, heart disease, cancer, traumatic injuries, and infectious diseases producing major sequelae. CCS also provides medical therapy services that are delivered at public schools.

The CCS program is administered as a partnership between county health departments and the California Department of Health Services (CDHS). Currently, approximately 70 percent of CCS-eligible children are also Medi-Cal eligible. The Medi-Cal program reimburses their care. The cost of care for the other 30 percent of children served by the program is funded equally between the State and counties.

In counties with populations greater than 200,000 (independent counties), county staff perform all case management activities for eligible children residing within their county. This includes determining all phases of program eligibility, evaluating needs for specific services, determining the appropriate provider(s), and authorizing for medically necessary care. For counties with populations under 200,000 (dependent counties), the CMS Branch provides medical case management and eligibility and benefits determination through its regional offices located in Sacramento, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. Dependent counties interact directly with families and make decisions on financial and residential eligibility. Some dependent counties have opted to participate in the Case Management Improvement Project (CMIP) to partner with regional offices in determining medical eligibility and service authorization. The regional offices also provide consultation, technical assistance, and oversight to independent counties, individual CCS paneled providers, hospitals, and the Special Care Centers within their region.

Children eligible for CCS must be residents of California, have CCS eligible conditions, and have family adjusted gross income of forty thousand dollars or less in the most recent tax year. Children in families with higher incomes may still be eligible for CCS if the estimated cost of care to the family in one year is expected to exceed 20 percent of the family's adjusted gross income. In addition, the CCS program is responsible for authorization of medically necessary services and medical case management of Medi-Cal beneficiaries with no share of cost who meet CCS medical and age criteria.

Services authorized by the CCS program to treat a Healthy Families (HF)-enrolled child's CCS-eligible medical condition are excluded from the plan's responsibilities. The HF health plan remains responsible for providing primary care and prevention services not related to the CCS-eligible medical condition to the plan subscriber as long as they are within the HF program scope of benefits. The health plan is also responsible for children who are referred to but not determined to be eligible for the CCS program.

CCS currently provides services to approximately 175,000 children through a network of CCS paneled specialty and subspecialty providers and Special Care Centers.

The CCS Medical Therapy Program (MTP) provides physical therapy, occupational therapy, and Medical Therapy Conference (MTC) services to children who meet specific medical eligibility criteria. These services are provided in an outpatient clinic setting known as a Medical Therapy Unit (MTU) that is located on a public school site. Licensed physical therapists and certified occupational therapists provide evaluation, treatment, consultation services and case management to children with conditions such as cerebral palsy and other neurologic and musculoskeletal disorders. Services in the MTP require:

- A prescription for the physical and occupational therapy services to be delivered at an MTU and provided under the supervision of physicians who are experts in the care of children with chronic disabilities.
- Coordination of services in the MTU under the medical management of a physician/therapy team. This is done through the MTC which is conducted at an MTU to plan for an individual child's need for, and level of, therapy services or through the prescription of a private medical provider.
- Participation from the child's family, school personnel, and other health care professional staff.

A child who is medically eligible for the MTP does not have to meet the CCS financial requirement to receive therapy or conference services through the MTP. However, if the MTC team recommends a service that is not provided by the MTP, the child must meet CCS financial eligibility, be a full scope Medi-Cal beneficiary with no share of cost, or be a Healthy Families subscriber.

The CMS Branch maintains procedures to meet the regulatory requirements to certify eligible MTUs as Outpatient Rehabilitation Centers (OPRCs). In a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CDHS Licensing and Certification Division, the CMS Branch was given the responsibility for certifying MTUs. Certified MTUs can receive Medi-Cal provider numbers and bill for physical therapy and occupational therapy services provided to Medi-Cal eligible beneficiaries in the MTUs.

## **II. Legislative Authority**

Health and Safety Code, 123800 et seq. is the enabling statute for the CCS program. The explicit legislative intent of the CCS program is to provide necessary medical services for children with CCS medically eligible conditions whose parents are unable to pay for these services, wholly or in part. The statute also requires the DHS and the county CCS program to seek handicapped children by cooperating with local public or private agencies and providers of medical care to bring eligible children to sources of expert diagnosis and treatment.

The CCS program is mandated by the Welfare and Institutions Code and the California Code of Regulations (Title 22, Section 51013) to act as an "agent of Medi-Cal" for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with CCS medically eligible conditions. Medi-Cal is to refer all CCS-eligible clients to CCS for case management services and prior authorization for

treatment. The statute also requires all CCS applicants who may be eligible for the Medi-Cal program to apply for that program.

### **III. Funding Description**

The funding source for a county CCS program is a combination of monies appropriated by the county, State General Funds, and the federal government. AB 948, the realignment legislation passed in 1992, mandated that the State and county CCS programs share in the cost of providing specialized medical care and rehabilitation to physically handicapped children through allocations of State General Fund and county monies. The amount of State money available for the CCS program is determined annually through the Budget Act.

CCS program funds are categorized in two parts:

- A. Funding for payment for diagnostic and treatment services provided to eligible children with physically handicapping conditions, and physical/ occupational therapy services and medical therapy conference services provided at public school sites. Funding for these medical services in current fiscal years must be at least equivalent to the actual CCS expenditures claimed by the county during FY 1990-91. The county Boards of Supervisors annually must appropriate 25 percent of this amount and allocate an additional 25 percent from the County Social Services Trust Account. The State is mandated to match these funds within available State General Funds. Funding for children who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries and are case managed by the CCS program is covered by the Medi-Cal program. Federal Financial Participation (FFP) under Title XXI of the Social Security Act may be claimed for CCS-eligible children enrolled in the HF program. Funding for services for children who are HF subscribers is covered by federal funds (65 percent), with the remaining cost shared by the county (17.5 percent) and the State (17.5 percent).
- B. Reimbursement for administrative and operational costs of county CCS programs is shared between the State and county programs (Health and Safety Code, Section 123955 [a]). The 1991-92 realignment legislation developed the system of allocating administrative funds, including FFP for CCS Medi-Cal eligible children. Funding for administrative costs is based on CCS staffing standards and the caseload mix of CCS clients. County CCS programs are responsible for 50 percent of the administrative cost for the non-Medi-Cal county caseload; the State matches the costs to the extent funds are available in the State budget. Administrative costs incurred for the Medi-Cal portion of the CCS caseload are shared by the State and federal government by claiming Medi-Cal administrative reimbursement.

The funding process for the cost of medical care for diagnosis, treatment, and MTP services is based on an allocation to each county and is accomplished as follows:

- A. Each fiscal year the county CCS program must allocate a sum equal to 25 percent of the actual county CCS expenditures claimed during Fiscal Year 1990-91 (known as a maintenance of effort [MOE]).

- B. The DHS matches the MOE with State funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis to the extent that State funds are available.
- C. To secure the funds for CCS costs of care, a county must submit, on an annual basis, a letter of certification stating the amount of county funds that DHS will be asked to match.
- D. Counties that submit authorized medical service claims for individual CCS clients to the state DHS fiscal intermediary for payment prepare a "Report of Expenditure Invoice" and reimburse the CMS Branch for the county's share of diagnosis, treatment, and therapy services expenditures.
- E. Counties must process claims for authorized medical services through a county payment process and prepare an "Expenditure Invoice" to request payment of the State's 50 percent share of diagnosis, treatment, and therapy services expenditures.

Funding for county CCS administrative and operational costs is based on budgets prepared by the county CCS programs and approved by the CMS Branch. The following budgets are used to fund the administrative and operational costs of county CCS programs:

- A. The CCS Administrative Budget is based on CCS staffing standards and a caseload mix of CCS clients whose services are funded by State-county funds and Medi-Cal beneficiaries whose services are funded by State and Title XIX funds.
  - 1. County CCS programs are responsible for 50 percent of administrative costs incurred for the non-Medi-Cal caseload with the State sharing an equal amount.
  - 2. Administrative costs incurred by counties to pay for services for Medi-Cal beneficiaries are shared by the State and federal government. These funds are identified in specific sections of the CCS Administrative Budget.
  - 3. County programs must submit, by September 15 of each year for the subsequent fiscal year, an application known as an Administrative Budget Request for the county administrative cost of administration of the CCS program. Directions for budget completion are found in Section 6 – Budget Instructions.
- B. The MTP Claims Preparation Budget is used to assist county CCS programs with operating expenses incurred in claims preparation for therapy services provided at an MTU.
  - 1. Funding through the CMS Branch for the MTP Claims Preparation Budget requires that each MTU preparing therapy service claims be certified as an OPRC based on the State's licensing and certification requirements.
  - 2. The instructions for completing this budget are found in the Section 6 – Budget Instructions.

NOTE: This budget is not for funding therapy services, such as MTCs, or other staff activities that support operation of the MTP including but not limited to clerical support required for patient scheduling and transcription of physicians' reports relating to MTCs.

- C. Counties may not transfer funds between allocations to provide medical services (diagnosis, treatment, and MTP) and funding requested and approved through the CCS Administrative or MTP Claim Preparation Budgets.
- D. The CMS Branch reviews county application(s)/proposed budget(s) to ensure they meet the minimum CCS requirements, including meeting the CCS administrative staffing standards for CCS Administrative Budgets.
- E. The CMS Branch reimburses county quarterly invoices based upon submission of the invoices for actual administrative expenditures for approved budgets.



## **Child Health and Disability Prevention Program Overview**

Website: [www.dhs.ca.gov/chdp](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/chdp)

### **I. Program Description**

The CHDP program provides complete health assessments for the early detection and prevention of disease and disabilities in children and youth. A health assessment consists of a health history, physical examination, developmental assessment, nutritional assessment, dental assessment, vision and hearing tests, a tuberculin test, laboratory tests, immunizations, health education/anticipatory guidance, and referral for any needed diagnosis and treatment. The eligible population for the CHDP program includes all Medi-Cal eligibles from birth through 20 years of age and low-income non-Medi-Cal eligibles from birth through 18 years of age with family incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

The program is financed and has standards established at the State level and is operated at the local level by local health departments for each county and three cities. The CHDP program oversees the screening and follow-up components of the federally mandated Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program for Medi-Cal eligible children and youth. The CHDP Program also provides preventive health assessments for non-Medi-Cal eligible children; and monitors the first grade entry program, which requires that all children entering the first grade or kindergarten have either a certificate of health examination or a waiver on file at their school.

The program is responsible for resource and provider development to ensure that high quality services are delivered and available to eligible children. In addition, the program informs the target populations to increase their participation; and community agencies and residents to increase the knowledge and acceptance of preventive services.

Local CHDP programs are also responsible for carrying out community activities which include planning, evaluation and monitoring, case management, informing, providing health education materials, provider recruitment, quality assurance, and client support services such as assistance with transportation and medical, dental, and mental health appointment scheduling and encouraging the completion of an application for ongoing health care coverage. Local CHDP programs are also responsible for oversight of the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPFC). For more information, see page 1-20.

In July 2003, the CHDP program began the CHDP Gateway using an automated pre-enrollment process for non Medi-Cal, uninsured children, serving as the entry point for these children to enroll in ongoing health care coverage through Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families program. The CHDP Gateway is based on federal law found in Titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act that allows states to establish presumptive eligibility programs for children.

When a child seeks CHDP services at a provider's office, CHDP providers enter the child's information through the Internet or a Point of Service (POS) Device using the CHDP Pre-Enrollment Application (DHS 4073) (see sample on page 10-74). In accordance with the CHDP periodicity schedule and age and income requirements, the CHDP program pre-enrolls the child into full scope, no-cost temporary Medi-Cal for the

month of their CHDP health assessment and the following month. Children who are not eligible for either program continue to receive CHDP services in accordance with the CHDP periodicity schedule. Parents or legal guardians may indicate on the DHS 4073 that they want to receive an application for continuing health care coverage for their child beyond the pre-enrollment period. For more information, refer to the CHDP Provider Manual located at [www.dhs.ca.gov/chdp](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/chdp).

## **II. Legislative Authority**

The CHDP program enabling statute provides the following authority:

- A. "...[C]hild health and disability prevention programs shall make maximum use of existing health care resources and shall utilize, as the first source of screening, the child's usual source of health care so that health screening programs are fully integrated with existing health services, that health care professionals be appropriately represented and utilized in these programs, that outreach programs be developed to stimulate the use of preventive health services, and that services offered pursuant to this article be efficiently provided and be of the highest quality." (Health and Safety Code, Section 124025).
- B. The DHS is given the authority to develop and implement the format and procedures that local CHDP programs utilize to prepare and submit a multi-year base plan on or before September 15 of each year. Each county program director submits an update to the multi-year base community CHDP plan as well as a budget update for the subsequent fiscal year (Health and Safety Code, Section 124060).
- C. Local CHDP programs are reimbursed from the appropriation made for the fiscal year when the expenses on which the claim is based are incurred (Health and Safety Code, Section 124070).
- D. The DHS is given the statutory authority to develop a schedule and method of reimbursement at reasonable rates for services rendered. The reimbursement schedule shall include provisions for well child examinations as well as for administrative expenses incurred by providers (Health and Safety Code, Section 124075).
- E. State and local CHDP programs maximize the use of federal funds and use state and/or county/city funds to match funds claimable under Title XIX of the Social Security Act. Services and administrative support costs claimable under federal law may include but are not limited to outreach, health education, case management, resource development, and training at state and local levels. Any federal funds received are used to augment, not replace, funds appropriated from State General Funds (Health and Safety Code, Section 124075).

## **III. Funding Description**

- A. Target population, health assessments, and active CHDP providers form the basis for each CHDP local program's fiscal year funding from the annual state appropriation for CHDP (see Section 4 - Data Forms, Children's Medical Services (CMS) Plan and Fiscal Guidelines (PFG) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2004-05).

- B. Funding for county/city CHDP administrative and operational costs is based on budgets prepared by the CHDP local program and approved by the CMS Branch (see Section 6 - Budget Instructions, CMS PFG for FY 2004-05).
- C. Medi-Cal children from birth to 21 years of age receive services under the Federal Title XIX program known as the EPSDT program. The EPSDT program is part of the Medi-Cal program and is funded by state general and federal funds.
- D. Low-income children from birth to 19 years of age with family incomes up to 200 percent of the federal income guidelines, and without preventive health care coverage are temporarily enrolled through the CHDP Gateway process into full scope, no-cost temporary Medi-Cal for the month of their CHDP health assessment and the following month. These services are funded by state general and federal funds under the EPSDT and Healthy Families (Title XXI) program.
- E. Low-income children not eligible through the CHDP Gateway pre-enrollment process for the Medi-Cal or Healthy Families program receive CHDP services paid for by state general funds.

## **Genetically Handicapped Persons Program Overview**

Website: [www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/ghpp](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/pcfh/cms/ghpp)

### **I. Program Description**

GHPP provides medical and administrative case management and funds medically necessary services for California residents over the age of 21 with GHPP-eligible medical conditions. Persons under age 21 with GHPP eligible conditions may also be eligible for GHPP if they have first been determined financially ineligible to receive services from the CCS program. Examples of GHPP-eligible conditions include, but are not limited to, genetic conditions such as:

- Charcot-Marie-Tooth Syndrome
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Disorders of carbohydrate transport and metabolism, i.e., Galactosemia
- Disorders of copper metabolism, i.e., Wilson's Disease
- Friedreich's Ataxia
- Hemophilia and other specific genetic coagulation defects
- Hereditary Spastic Paraplegia
- Huntington's Disease
- Inborn errors of metabolism including disorders of amino-acid transport and metabolism, such as Phenylketonuria (PKU)
- Joseph's Disease
- Refsum's Disease
- Rousy-Levy Syndrome
- Sickle Cell Disease including Thalassemia
- von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome

Referrals to GHPP come from a variety of sources including hospital staff, physicians' offices, community health care providers, school nurses, public health departments, family members, and self-referrals. GHPP is responsible for authorization of medically necessary services and medical case management of Medi-Cal beneficiaries not in managed care plans. Currently there are approximately 1,650 clients enrolled in GHPP.

Program service benefits require prior authorization by GHPP. These benefits include services such as:

- Blood transfusions and blood derivatives
- Durable medical equipment
- Expert diagnosis
- Genetic and psychological counseling
- Home health care
- Hospital care
- Initial intake and diagnostic evaluation
- Inpatient/outpatient medical and surgical treatment
- Maintenance and transportation
- Medical and surgical treatment
- Physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy
- Rehabilitation services, including reconstructive surgery
- Respite care
- Specified prescription drugs
- Treatment services

GHPP has a system of Special Care Centers (SCC) that provide comprehensive, coordinated health care to clients with specific genetic GHPP medically eligible conditions. The GHPP SCCs are multi-disciplinary, multi-specialty teams that evaluate the GHPP client's medical condition and develop a comprehensive, family-centered plan of healthcare that facilitates the provision of timely, coordinated treatment.

## **II. Legislative Authority**

The Holden-Moscone-Garamendi Genetically Handicapped Persons Program (SB 2265 1975, 1976, 1977, 1980, 1982) was the enabling legislation for GHPP. In 1975, the Program was enacted to pay for medical care and to provide medical case management for persons with Hemophilia. In 1976, Cystic Fibrosis was added by legislation. In 1977, Sickle Cell Disease was added to the GHPP. In subsequent years, conditions such as Huntington's Disease, Joseph's Disease, Friedreich's Ataxia, von Hippel-Lindau Syndrome, PKU, and other metabolic conditions were included. The legal authority for GHPP is the Health and Safety Code, Chapter 2, Section 125125 et. seq.

## **III. Funding Description**

GHPP is a State-funded program which receives funds through the State General Fund. The GHPP also generates funds from enrollment fees that some clients, depending on

their financial resources, are required to pay. Medi-Cal funds are utilized for GHPP clients who are Medi-Cal beneficiaries, but who are not in a Medi-Cal Managed Care Plan. GHPP clients who have other healthcare insurance must utilize their other healthcare insurance first before funding is available from the State General Fund. The GHPP is the payor of last resort.

## **Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care Overview**

Website: [www.dhs.ca.gov/hcpcfc](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/hcpcfc)

### **I. Program Description**

The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC) is a public health nursing program administered by local public health department Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) programs to provide public health nursing expertise in meeting the medical, dental, mental and developmental health needs of children and youth in out-of-home placement or foster care. The public health nurses (PHNs) work with the child's social worker or probation officer as a team member to ensure that children in foster care receive needed health services. PHNs provide health care oversight of the medical, dental, behavioral, and development needs and services, including those placed "out-of-county" and "out-of-state". The PHNs assist the social worker and probation officer in the entry and update of the child's medical and health information in the required record known as the Health and Education Passport (HEP). The PHNs collaborate with the foster care team in the provision of training programs for foster parents, health care providers, and child welfare, probation, and juvenile court staff.

In their role as consultants to child welfare workers and probation officers, PHNs assist in meeting the challenges of delivering health care to children and youth in foster care by coordinating services with multiple caregivers, health care providers, agencies, and organizations. The PHNs participate in interdisciplinary team conferences and they assist with the transition from foster care by linking the child to community resources to meet the health care services needs upon termination of foster care.

Since the HCPCFC is a program within the local CHDP program, the required administrative activities of budget preparation and management, nursing supervision, and implementation of the HCPCFC Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) are the responsibility of the CHDP program. Collaboration among the local health, welfare, and probation departments in the development and implementation of the MOU is recognized as being fundamental to the success of the HCPCFC.

To assist and monitor local program implementation of the HCPCFC, the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) through a Letter of Agreement with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) develops budget methodology, provides guidance on required program activities and performance measures, and recommends content of the local interdepartmental HCPCFC MOU.

### **II. Legislative Authority**

The State Budget Act of 1999 appropriated State General Funds to the CDSS for the purpose of increasing the use of PHNs in meeting the health care needs of children in foster care. These funds were transferred to CDHS for distribution through the local CHDP program as an augmentation to operate the HCPCFC. The legal authority for the HCPCFC is the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 16501.3 (a) through (e).

### **III. Funding Description**

Caseload data for children and probation youth in foster care from the Child Welfare System/Case Management System (CWS/CMS), maintained by the CDSS form the basis for each CHDP local program's fiscal year funding from the annual state appropriation for HCPCFC (see Section 6 – Budget Instructions). The source of funds for the HCPCFC Administrative Budget is State General Funds matchable with up to 75 percent Federal Funds (XIX). The source of funds for the optional CHDP Foster Care Administrative Budget County/City Match is county/city funds matchable with up to 75 percent Federal Funds (XIX).

Funding for county/city HCPCFC administrative and operational costs is based on budgets prepared by the CHDP local program and approved by the CMS Branch (see Section 6 – Budget Instructions). PHN and Supervising PHN Personnel, Operating and Internal Indirect costs are the budget categories.

### **IV. References**

- [CHDP Program Letter 99-06](#) (October 21, 1999) regarding “Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care”
- CMS Branch Correspondence and Attachments (October 25, 1999) regarding “Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care”
- [All County Letter 99-108](#) (December 21, 1999) regarding “Instructions Regarding Local Memorandum of Understanding for Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care”
- [All County Information Notice I-55-99](#) (September 2, 1999) regarding “New Foster Care Public Health Nurse Program in County Welfare Departments”
- [CHDP Program Letter 03-15](#) (July 25, 2003) regarding “Revisions to the HCPCFC Administrative Funding Methodology and Budget Format”



## **Newborn Hearing Screening Program Overview**

Website: [www.dhs.ca.gov/nhsp](http://www.dhs.ca.gov/nhsp)

### **I. Program Description**

The NHSP has established a comprehensive coordinated system of early identification and provision of appropriate services for infants with hearing loss. The program offers the parents of all infants born in CCS-approved hospitals the opportunity to have their babies screened for hearing loss in the hospital at the time of birth; tracks and monitors all infants who need follow-up testing and diagnostic evaluations; and provides access to medical treatment and other appropriate educational and support services.

The NHSP has contracted with four organizations to serve as Hearing Coordination Centers (HCC): Miller Children's Hospital, Loma Linda University, Sutter Memorial Hospital, and University of California, San Francisco. These HCCs are responsible for certifying CCS approved hospitals to participate in the program, assuring the quality of the hearing screening services, and tracking of infants needing follow-up testing.

The program has available educational and outreach materials for parents and providers. These materials are available in multiple languages.

### **II. Legislative Authority**

The enabling legislation for the NHSP was Assembly Bill 2780, Chapter 310, Statutes of 1998. This legislation defined the components of the program, amended Health and Safety Code Section 123975, and added Sections 124115-124120.5 to the Health and Safety Code.

### **III. Funding Description**

The NHSP is funded through the State General Fund with matching funds from the Medi-Cal program. Reimbursement for inpatient and outpatient screenings is available to certified providers for infants whose care is paid for by the Medi-Cal program and those infants who have no expectation or evidence of a third party payer. Medi-Cal reimbursement is paid on a fee-for-service basis outside of the hospital per diem rate, regardless of whether the child is enrolled in a Medi-Cal Managed Care plan or has fee-for-service Medi-Cal. Reimbursement for uninsured children is available through the State CCS program using State General Funds.